Application No.: 09/931,695 Docket No.: 9323.051.00-US

Amendment dated October 5, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated August 19, 2004

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated August 19, 2004 has been

received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-30 are

currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank Examiner Mutschler for speaking with the

Applicant's representative on September 29, 2004.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated

by WO 99/26763. In addition, claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being

anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,629,883 to Katsuoka et al. During the telephonic conference, the

Applicant's representative and Examiner Mutschler discussed the outstanding rejections and the

above claim amendments. In particular, the Examiner agreed that, as amended, claims 1-30 are

allowable over the cited references.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes the application is in a condition for allowance

and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the

application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the

undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application

in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed

address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office,

then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37

C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

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filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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